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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 H-02 AID-05 /049 W
---------- 060216
P 160940Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9581

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1279

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, BM
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF BURMESE NARCOTICS OFFICIALS

REF: RANGOON 919 AND STATE 095169

1. ON MAY 15 COLONEL TIN OO, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INTEL-
LIGENCE BUREAU AND ONE OF PRESIDENT NE WIN'S CLOSEST ADVISORS,
ASKED US TO MEET WITH HIM TO DISCUSS THE PROGRAM FOR THE BURMESE
NARCOTICS OFFICIALS DELEGATION. AFTER A POINT-BY-POINT REVIEW OF
THE PROGRAM OUTLINED REFTELS COLONEL TIN OO ACCEPTED IN TOTO THE
PROPOSED 4-STAGE PROGRAM. HE ALSO IDENTIFIED THE THREE BURMESE
DELEGATES AND PROVIDED SUGGESTED TIME FRAME WHICH THE DEPARTMENT
AND DEA MAY USE IN DETAILED ARRANOJMENTS FOR THIS OBSERVATION
TOUR. DETAILS FOLLOW:

A. THE THREE DELEGATES ARE MIS DIRECTOR COLONEL AUNG HTAY,
SPECIAL BRANCH SUPERINTEMHENT U SOE MYINT, AND BURMA AIR FORCE
MAJOR TIN MAUNG. COLONEL AUNG HTAY, COLONEL TIN OO'S RIGHT HAND
MAN, WILL HEAD THE DELEGATION.

B. THREE BURMESE DELEGATES WOULD BE PREPARED TO LEAVE FOR

WASHINGTON IN EARLY JUNE IF THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS CAN
BE MADE BY THAT TIME. THEY PLAN TO STOP ENROUTE IN LONDON
FOR ONE WEEK TO DISCUSS BRITISH NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORTS
WITH SENIOR BRITISH OFFICIALS AT SPECIAL BRANCH. AFTER LONDON,
THE DELEGATES WILL FLY DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON, SETTING ASIDE
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THREE OR FOUR WEEKS FOR THE U.S. PROGRAM. AFTER COMPLETING

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THE U.S. LEG OF THE TRIP, THE DELEGATES WOULD FLY TO TOKYO WHERE THEY ARE COUNTING ON ANOTHER WEEK OR SO TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH JAPANESE SECURITY AND NARCOTICS OFFICIALS. AFTER TOKYO, THE DELEGATION WOULD RETURN TO RANGOON VIA HONG KONG WHERE COLONEL AUNG HTAY PLANS TO MAKE A BRIEF TWO OR THREE DAY STOP. TIMING OF LONDON AND TOKYO STOPS WOULD OF COURSE BE KEYED TO DATES OF U.S. TOUR.

C. TO AVOID ALERTING TRAFFICERS THAT GUB IS SHOPPING FOR SOPHISTICATED SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT, COLONEL TIN OO SAID GUB WANTS A LOW PROFILE, UNOFFICIAL VISIT AND NO PUBLICITY. THE DELEGATIONS' NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION MISSION SHOULD NOT BE PUBLICIZED IN WASHINGTON. THE DELEGATES, IF QUERIED, WILL IDENTIFY THEMSELVES ONLY AS SENIOR BURMESE SECURITY OFFICERS DELEGATED TO SURVEY NEW TECHNICAL ADVANCES AND METHODS EMPLOYED BY VARIOUS U.S. AGENCIES, INCLUDING CUSTOMS, AIRPORT AND SEAPORT SECURITY, COAST GUARD, BORDER PATROL OPERATIONS, ETC.

2. COLONEL TIN OO INDICATED WE COULD REGARD THE ABOVE AS SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS AS TO TIME FRAME AND IDENTITY OF OFFICIALS INVOLVED. HE SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO CLEAR FUTHER WITHIN THE GUB. I EMPHASIZED TTTHHAT OUR PROGRAM IS FLEXIBLE AND THAT HIS OFFICERS SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO ASK FOR ANY CHANGES THAT MIGHT MAKE THE TOUR MORE SUITABLE TO THEIR NEEDS.

3. THE NEXT STEP IS TO PRESENT TIN OO WITH A SPECIFIC SET OF DATES FOR THE OBSERVATION TOUR. WHILE I BELIEVE HIS REFERENCE TO EARLY JUNE AS POSSIBLE COMMENCEMENT OF THE TOUR WAS NOT MEANT TTO BE BINDING, IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO BEGIN THE TOUR AS EARLY AS CONVENIENT. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST IF JUNE TIME FRAME IS NOT FEASIBLE.

4. BURMESE INSIST ON FUNDING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS THEMSELVES; HOWEVER, I BELIEVE IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THIS TOUR THAT THE VISITORS NOT BE EMBARRASSED BY PETTY MONEY WORRIES DURING THEIR STAY IN THE U.S. I ACCORDINGLY STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE AUTHORIZED EXTRAORDINARY PER DIEM OF $40 PER DAY.
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To: STATE
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